

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1015
By Clabough

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Inez Burns of Blount County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Inez Burns, Blount County Historian; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary public servant and consummate professional, Ms. Burns worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burns had served with acumen and alacrity as a teacher and historian, in which positions she earned the unbridled respect of her peers and students alike for the exemplary quality of her work and her unrelenting dedication to duty; and

WHEREAS, born April 12, 1907, Inez Burns grew up in the Tuckaleechee Cove area, and she taught in several Blount County schools from 1930 until retiring in 1972; and

WHEREAS, throughout her inspirational tenure in education, Ms. Burns also contributed her time to learning more about the people and history of Blount County; the culmination of her efforts resulted in her authorship of the book, *History of Blount County, Tennessee, from War Trail to Landing Strip*, a publication which is recognized as one of the most thorough county histories in the State; and

WHEREAS, valuing her diligent work in retrieving accurate accounts of the past, the Blount County Commission appointed Ms. Burns as Blount County Historian in 1971; she was also honored with the titles "Preserver of Tennessee Heritage" and "First Historian of Tennessee" by the 94th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, a very important part of Blount County, Ms. Burns was honored with Inez Burns Appreciation Day on the 203rd Anniversary of Sam Houston's birth and her birthplace is listed on the National Register of Historic Sites; the road in front of her birthplace is named the Inez Burns Parkway; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burns received numerous accolades for her dedication to historical preservation and interpretation, including the Ramsey Award for Lifetime Achievement from the East Tennessee Historical Society, at the time, she was only one of eight people to have ever received this prestigious honor; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her personal exploration into the history of Blount County, Ms. Burns volunteered countless hours to educating the public about and preserving the historical heritage of the County, especially the Sam Houston Schoolhouse; and

WHEREAS, even before the advent of the Historic Sam Houston Schoolhouse Association, Ms. Burns was dedicated to the preservation of the structure, oftentimes mowing grass and cutting briars that surrounded the log building; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burns later contributed her time and talents to the Association as a member of the Board of Directors, in addition to expertly interpreting the history of the school for its many visitors; and

WHEREAS, also deeply devoted to her family, Ms. Burns always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she was preceded in death by her parents, John Gamble and Nancy Brickey Burns; her brothers, Herbert V. Burns, Ralph Burns, and John Theodore Burns, and her sisters, Edith Little and Flora Headrick; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Burns will be sorely missed by her nephews and nieces, Gerald and Sherry Burns and their children, Steven, Kenneth, and Bonnie Lachowicz; Ralph and Ann Burns and their daughter, Kathryn Black; John T. Burns; Williams Fredrick "Rick" Burns; David L. Burns; Jane Burns Firestone; and numerous other great-nieces and nephews, great-great-nieces and nephews, and a host of friends and former students; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Inez Burns leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Inez Burns, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character, dedication to the preservation of Blount County history, and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Burns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.